(c) Tantnagar and Manjhari area is covered with Telephone facility by Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) network.

**New post offices in Mumbai**

1215. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open new Post Offices in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed Post Offices, area-wise; and

(c) by when the proposal would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However this will be subject to fulfilment of norms relating to population, distance and income and availability of requisite resources under Annual Plan. During the current year 5 post offices have been opened so far in Mumbai by relocation. A target of 25 Branch Offices and 2 Sub Offices have also been recently allotted to Maharashtra Circle, for implementation under plan during the current financial year, for which Circle will formulate proposals subject to compliance of the existing norms.

**MTNL's Overseas Venture**

1216. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MTNL Plans Overseas Ventures, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether MTNL propose to finalise inter-connect agreement with Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) for the year 2003-04; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far MTNL has succeeded in adding subscribers in the country during the year 2002-03?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. MTNL, a Navratna Public Sector Undertaking has plans for overseas ventures, the details of which are as under:

(i) MTNL has formed a joint venture company in the name of United Telecom Limited with Telecom Consultants India Limited (TCIL), Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) and Nepal Ventures (P) Ltd., (NVPL—a Nepalese Company). The company is operational since 10th October, 2001 for providing WLL based basic services in Nepal.

(ii) MTNL is in the process of getting feasibility and due diligence for a second Telecom operator in Mauritius.

(iii) MTNL also plans to operate in Kenya as a Second Telecom Operator.

(iv) MTNL has joined a consortium of TCIL India, alongwith a local partner in Malawi and has bid for buying equity stake during privatisation process of Malawi Telecom Limited (MTL).

(b) MTNL has finalised interconnect agreement with Videsh Sanchar Nigam for the year 2003-2004 for International Long Distance (ILD) and National Long Distance (NLD) Services.

(c) No. of subscriber added during the year 2002-03 in MTNL are given below:—

| Cellular Mobile Subscriber | | Land-line Telephone | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Delhi | 38,218 | Delhi | 90,051 |
| Mumbai | 53,152 | Mumbai | 31,275 |

**Funds for expansion of telephone system**

1217. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: